

# WOMEN'S DRESS RULING

*concerning too short and too tight skirts, and extra-low-neck dresses*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**W**HY does the Word of God confine His instruction regarding *modest apparel*, and the *adorn- ing* of the person with clothes, to the **WOMEN**?

Did God desire to discriminate—to make women uncomfortable—to show partiality to men? Does God intend for *men* to show off themselves in ornamental and gay attire, while He commands women to make unsightly scare-crows of themselves?

Of course we know better than that. There is nothing in God's instruction to make women appear ugly, or to make them uncomfortable. On the contrary, many, if not most, women will suffer any amount of discomfort in their worship of the goddess Dame Fashion.

## God's REASON

God never shows partiality. He never discriminates against individuals, sexes, races, or whoever. Yet God's Word does carry specific instruction for *women* to be modest in their dress—and no corresponding instruction for modesty in *men's* clothing is given. **WHY?**

There is a reason! I think, candidly, that the girls and women in God's Church *know* the answer. And for that very reason some of them seem to want to violate God's instruction!

What I am going to say applies only to a *few*. Women in God's Church are different from those of the world. But a very few need severe correction.

I do not mean that even these few go to the extremes of ridiculous fashion so commonly seen in the world. You won't see any member of God's Church wearing artificially striped hair, green eyelids, and a purple mouth, decked out in outlandish dress design and overdone wacky jewelry. But, in the category of too short and too tight skirts, and in excessively low-neck dresses, some of you women and girls need a sharp rebuke from God's ministers!

Now **WHY** does God's Instruction Book contain admonition regarding modesty in *women's* dress, and *not regarding men's*?

In both colleges—Pasadena and Bricket Wood, England,—I personally teach a class in *Principles of Living*. This class includes God's instruction in regard to sex and marriage. Sex responses operate in the *mind*, and the male mind does not react in the same manner as the female mind in relation to sex. Sex consciousness, and arousal, in the male, is brought about much more quickly than in the female, and is

stimulated by sight, or even by imagination, in a manner that has little affect on females.

God made the female body to be attractive to the male. This attraction may be, and *should* be, one of sheer beauty. But also it may be, and under many circumstances often is, a stimulation of LUST. Especially when certain parts of the female figure are emphasized, such as the hips and buttocks by tight skirts, the low neckline exposing portions of breasts, or too-short skirts exposing more than is modest of the female leg.

I am quite aware that it is the current fashion, in the world, to wear short knee-length skirts extra tight around the hips. But the women in God's Church have *come out* of the world, and are *different*—or else they have not been put into His Church by God. *God's* daughters do not find it necessary to conform to this world, going along in its extremes of daring, or wrong, styles.

Candidly, when I see a female with a skirt tight enough to call attention to the shape of her hips, especially when tight below the hips and under the buttocks, I know that she is either careless and needs sharp admonishing or else she is wearing it deliberately to attract male eyes and arouse lust toward her in men's minds.

Do you want to know my personal reaction when I see such an example? It makes me feel that such a girl or woman needs either a good lecture driven home by a *sound SPANKING* of what she so brazenly displays, or to be classed as a fallen woman and a common prostitute.

**THAT IS PLAIN LANGUAGE!** I mean it to be plain, and I want the women in God's Church to know it is coming from God's Minister, who speaks by Christ's authority!

Recently some of our girls and women have been wearing skirts that are entirely **TOO SHORT!** Often I have felt I ought to speak personally to some of you. If this article does not quickly correct this evil—**AND IT IS AN EVIL!**—God's ministers will be instructed to begin speaking personally and in a manner that ought to cause a deep sense of shame and produce a very red face on any girl or woman who invites such sharp rebuke from a Minister of God!

When many of you women wear skirts as high as the knee, and which completely expose the knees when sitting, your skirts are an abomination in God's eyes. I wonder, frankly, if God

doesn't blush when *HE* sees you! Are you women who do this, deliberately trying to tempt men into breaking the spirit of God's law against adultery? Are you trying to make yourselves adultresses? Are you not breaking the very spirit of that law, *yourselves*?

In our instruction to parents in proper child rearing we teach that when you spank your child, it must be sufficiently severe to impress the lesson—painful enough that he will not want to cause it to be repeated very soon. In this instruction to the spiritual children in God's Church, your Pastor is making this correction to those who need it, I sincerely hope, plain enough and painful enough that it shall not need repeating!

## Neither Extreme

God's Church does *not* teach, nor does God's Word when rightly understood, that women should go to the opposite extreme of wearing ill-fitting, overly loose skirts that drag the dust and pick up germs. I am not saying that your neckline must be so high that all the neck is covered. God is not the author of UGLINESS, any more than of confusion or evil. God is the Great Artist who has designed all the beauty of nature.

Consequently, in conformity with the Word of God, God's Church encourages women to dress neatly, pleasingly, attractively within the bounds of proper modesty and good taste, and even with sufficient becoming style to express personality and individuality. God Himself expressed perfect artistry in beautiful design in nature—in the lily—the rose—beautiful trees, shrubs and plants—in prize-winning livestock—and even in the beautiful human body, when healthy and not degenerated.

For women to dress becomingly yet modestly, there is no need to disguise the human figure by grotesque ultra-modern styles that make them look like lampshades, T-squares, or triangles. The world goes either to that extreme, or to the extreme of undue emphasis on breast, hips, and legs.

But it is in this latter category that some—yes, too many—or our women offend.

More than once I have seen a few of our women, in evening dress, exposing entirely too much female breast—with neckline cut so low as to show a goodly portion of breasts, with a crease in the middle. On one or two occasions, I

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understood about God's Festivals, *every single one of you* should have SAVED a second tithe or tenth of your income—as God commands—to enable you to *keep and rejoice* in the Feast of Tabernacles. We have had many articles explaining this command in the past in the GOOD NEWS magazine. If any of you want further information on this, be sure to write us *immediately*.

But NOW, if any of you have *wrongly* "borrowed" from your second tithe or simply failed to save a full second tithe to attend God's Festivals—you should if at all possible *pay back* this tenth part of your income and OBEY God by attending His Feast of Tabernacles. If some of you newer brethren haven't understood about this command long enough or thoroughly enough to save this second tithe, then certainly God would *expect you* to use money from your regular income to attend IF it is at all possible and is not going to result in calamity for yourself or your family. The point is that Almighty God INTENDS that you be at His Festival!

There will be no miserable "excuses" accepted by Christ after He comes to personally lead us in keeping the Feast. We have already seen that revealed in Zechariah 14. And so—since Christ does not change, and since He is right NOW the living Head of the Church—*He will not accept any such excuses at this time either!* Unless illness or serious financial adversity would result from your attendance (and God knows what the situation *really is*), you should MAKE a way to attend the Feast of Tabernacles THIS YEAR! If you have genuine problems, write us about them immediately.

### REJOICE at the Feast of Tabernacles!

Obedying these commands of God will bring greater blessings than you have ever experienced! Hundreds of you have written us asking, "How can we have fellowship with other true believers"? God in His infinite wisdom *knew* that His children should congregate for instruction and fellowship. That is *why* God *blessed* us by giving us His annual festivals.

Saving your second tithe will make the joyous privilege of attending these festivals possible. Because God has commanded this special tithe, He is *bound* to help you fulfill this command. If you do YOUR part, you can *know* that God will enable you to attend His Holy Festivals!

Do you realize what this means?

It means that God is commanding us, instructing us—and will BLESS us that we may take a *vacation* in joyous fellowship with His people! This is the

time to take *your* vacation. It is a time when God will make it possible for *all* His children to rest from their regular duties and to *worship* and *rejoice* together in His festivals.

So by all means *come to the Feast of Tabernacles!*

*When?* At the time God has set—at the Feast of Tabernacles, which begins this year on Friday evening, October 12 and ends on Saturday evening October 20.

*How?* By setting aside your *second* tithe regularly which God has commanded that you use in attending His Holy Days.

*Why?* Because your Creator knows that you *need* the spiritual fellowship made possible by these festivals. He has *commanded* you to attend.

Honestly, *you can't afford* NOT to attend God's festivals!

So, as we said last year: Come with an *open* mind and heart. Come with an *open Bible* and a *ready pen and notebook*. Come with a *warm handshake* and a *ready smile*. But COME—*obey your Maker*—and REJOICE!

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have instructed Mrs. Armstrong to speak to such women, telling them plainly that their necklines are too low.

Women's breasts, in plain language, were designed by God to nurse babies—not to be flaunted immodestly to arouse lust in men.

In the matter of too-tight skirts around the hips, the excuse often is that the girl has taken on weight—and she protests that she cannot help it. But she *can* help it, and if she is to remain in God's Church or enter God's Kingdom, *she must*—one of two ways: either don't remain overweight (fasting and proper diet will cure that quickly), or let out the seam.

We want our women to be beautiful—*naturally* beautiful, pleasingly attractive, in good style, *well groomed*—but not artificially so, and this may be accomplished WITH FULL MODESTY.

It is the *over-emphasis* of lust-arousing portions of the female body that MUST BE CORRECTED.

## Feast of Tabernacles

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give us the big extra BOOST we ought to have at this time of the year!

So THINK about it, brethren. PLAN to give an offering, but SEND IN YOUR REGULAR OFFERINGS BESIDES! SURELY we are God's people! Let's keep PROV-

ING it to Him!

### Don't Miss the Experience of a Lifetime!

Perhaps some few of you reading this are planning NOT to attend. Maybe there is a valid reason. Perhaps you are a *newcomer* to God's Church, and, even though faithfully saving your second tithe, you have not had enough to come simply because you learned of this principle of God too late. Perhaps you are a widow, who has been counseled not to attend this year, so that others may come.

But if there is NOT a *really* valid reason—then YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER VERY SERIOUSLY!

Brethren! If Almighty God were to APPEAR before you, and COMMAND you to do something—would you DO it? Think about it for a moment! *Would you, really?*

Many of you simply HAVE NOT TRAVELED much before. You are FEARFUL of travel to "far away" places. But will YOU GO TO PETRA WHEN GOD COMMANDS—LEAVING AND FORSAKING ALL BEHIND YOU—WITH NEVER A BACKWARD GLANCE? YOU SAID YOU WOULD, WHEN YOU STUDIED LUKE 14:25-33 AND DECIDED YOU WOULD COUNT THE COST!

Some have never been ON a bus, or a train, or an airplane. Some have older cars, and think they may not make it. Others need tires, or parts, or perhaps are fearful of traveling ALONE.

Brethren—*whatever* your problem—THINK IT THROUGH! Make sure your reason for thinking you might MISS this glorious Festival is a really VALID one!

Perhaps some of you, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH SECOND TITHE OR OTHER MONEY TO GET TO THE FEAST AND RETURN HOME should *not* come. But be sure to write of your circumstances by *airmail, immediately*, and get wise counsel with your problem.

For *most* of you, attendance at this great Feast is only a matter of a little EFFORT, and exercising some real FAITH in God! It would be a real SHAME to have to miss these wonderful days of preaching services, special songs from really talented young people from Ambassador College. You would have to miss the student "fun" show, the finely done Ambassador Chorale concert (in Gladewater only) and all the jam-packed, fun-filled days of REJOICING together, as God's own people—away from the cares of this sin-sick world!

DON'T MISS it, brethren! PRAY about it—PLAN to come—ask God to MAKE A WAY for you to attend!

God willing—we'll all be meeting together, at the FEAST!